

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22959

Relating to genetic testing, this legislation creates a licensing system and licensing requirements for genetic counselors. Advances in genetics as well as the mapping of the human genome have resulted in a dramatic increase in genetic knowledge. This knowledge has created an expansion of testing options for genetic conditions which has created a need for qualified genetics professionals, including genetic counselors. Genetic Counselors work as members of a health care team interpreting family and medical histories to assess risk of disease, educating families about inheritance, genetic testing, disease management and prevention, resources, and research studies. They will counsel families to promote informed choices about and adaptation to genetic risks or conditions. Genetic Counselors will also ensure that genetic information is used appropriately in the delivery of medical care. Recognizing that genetic counseling can profoundly affect the lives of people of the state of Idaho, it is the purpose of this act to set standards of qualification for those who engage in the practice of genetic counseling and protect the public from unprofessional conduct in the practice of genetic counseling.

FISCAL NOTE

There will be no fiscal impact on state or local funds; the cost of licensing will be borne by licensees and those seeking licenses.

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